

WILSON SPEAKS IN JOINT SESSION

Germany Must Make Guarantees or Trouble Will Follow

APPROACHING CRISIS

Every Official Realizes Tide is Moving Steadily to War Between the Two Countries

Washington, April 19.—The United States Government has served a practical ultimatum on Germany, demanding an immediate abandonment of the submarine warfare.

Failure on Germany's part to comply will mean a severance of diplomatic relations.

This was the message which President Wilson read today to the Congress of the United States, in tones of solemn emphasis which electrified his hearers. He said:

"Unless the imperial German government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, this Government can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the government of the German empire altogether.

"This decision I have arrived at, with the keenest regret; the possibility of the action contemplated I am sure all thoughtful Americans look forward to with unaffected reluctance."

The message was delivered before both branches of Congress assembled in the chamber of the House of Representatives.

The galleries were packed to their utmost capacity with a crowd of men and women who sat in tense stillness.

Foreign diplomats were present in large numbers. They had come to hear America's last word to Germany.

A note to Berlin, embodying the demand of the United States, the President told Congress, has been cabled to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin with instructions to present it at once to the German foreign office.

Washington, April 19.—The move made by the Government of the United States every official of the Administration realizes points straight in the direction of war with Germany. This does not mean that war is an inevitable consequence, but it does mean that war is but one step removed from a diplomatic break with the German Government and a short step at that.

At 1 o'clock today President Wilson addressed a joint session of the House and Senate. He, in the message he delivered, reviewed the efforts he has made during the past year to protect the rights and lives of American people against the wanton attacks of German submarines. He showed that his friendly efforts have been futile, that Germany has promised and temporized and dilly-dallied, without, in effect, keeping a single pledge that she has made.

When this deplorable record was spread wide open before Congress and the American people, the President then announced that he has forwarded a final note to Germany, a note which in every essential particular is an ultimatum. Anything short of an immediate and unqualified acceptance by Germany of the demands of the United States will mean the instant withdrawal of Ambassador Gerard and the dismissal of Ambassador von Bernstorff.

It is not difficult to understand that once diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany are severed, once the negotiations have ceased, once all avenues of friendly intercourse are closed it is not difficult to understand that such a situation is bordering dangerously on a declaration of war.

Moreover, once the restraint which American influences have had upon German submarine warfare are removed, once the German people themselves conclude that the American

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nation is the enemy, it is morally certain that orders will go forth to the undersea commanders to spare no vessels engaged in trade with an allied country.

All that will then be needed to precipitate war will be one fresh outrage against the lives of American people who may be exercising their rights under international law to sail the seas. Such an overt act, particularly, if it is committed against an American ship, would bring the crash.

It is known, of course, that President Wilson has weighed carefully everyone of these possibilities; that he understands exactly what the future may hold for the country, and that he realizes the gravity of the move, he is about to make. He has concluded, however, that it is useless under present circumstances to negotiate further with Germany along the lines he has followed since the sinking of the Lusitania. The Berlin Government has broken faith with the United States just as often as it has given a pledge and the President has decided to force issues once and for all.

What it is that has happened within the last 24 hours to bring the German negotiations to a sudden end nobody outside the Cabinet circles seems to know. Until Monday the President was willing to make one more effort to reach a satisfactory understanding with Germany. Before deciding to lay the whole case before Congress, he worked two days and nights, in conference with Secretary Lansing, on the draft of a note which he projected with the hope of arriving at such an agreement.

Yesterday, however, the whole situation changed. When the Cabinet met the decision of the President to end all parley was announced. A few hours later Secretary Tumulty was directed to go to the Capitol and request Congress to sit in joint session at 1 o'clock today to hear this decision publicly proclaimed. That some new phase developed is certain, but just what it was remains to be seen.

LANDSLIDE AGAINST BRYAN

Nebraska Primaries Show Henry Ford Leading Republican Candidates

Omaha, April 19.—The early returns from the Nebraska primaries held today indicate that William J. Bryan's entire slate has been defeated, and if Mr. Bryan himself wins out for delegate at large to the national convention, it will be by a close margin.

Henry Ford, of Detroit, is leading in the Republican presidential primaries, but is not expected to hold his lead. Charles E. Hughes is running especially strong, although his admirers are forced to write his name in on the ballots. Senator Cummins is leading Hughes, and the fight is between these two.

Bryan made a three weeks' campaign of the State to defeat Senator Hitchcock, to nominate C. W. Bryan, his brother, for Governor, on a prohibition plank, and to create sentiment for prohibition and against preparedness. Hitchcock appears to have won.

Neville, for Governor, is running three to one over Charles W. Bryan. The "Cowboy Mayor" Jim Dahlgren, of Omaha, Bryan's dry candidate for national committeeman will probably go down to defeat in the anti-Bryan landslide.

The early returns indicate that William J. Bryan did not receive the vote of the Germans as had been expected.

16,000 CANADIANS ARRIVE

Lapland's Passengers Bring Report From Liverpool

New York, April 19.—Passengers on the White Star liner Lapland, which got in yesterday from Liverpool, reported having witnessed the arrival at that port on April 8, of the steamship Olympic, Baltic and Adriatic from Halifax, carrying 16,000 Canadian troops.

They were greeted by a demonstration, the passengers said, from other ships anchored in the Mersey.

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Martha Washington Cakes. Fresh every day, at P. O. Cockey's 325 King.

Steamed Hard Shelled Crabs at the Rammel Cafe.

FOREST FIRES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Conflagration in Timbered Districts Fanned By High Wind

FIVE HOMES BURNED

Losses Will Aggregate Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars—People Flee in Panic.

The most disastrous forest fire that northern Virginia has known for a number of years is sweeping the heavily timbered districts of lower Fairfax County in the vicinity of Mt. Vernon and the little towns of Lorton, Pohick and Accotink. A zig-zag stretch of land over eight miles long has already been burned, five residences and probably more were destroyed yesterday afternoon and night, many thousands of dollars of valuable standing timber, lumber and cord wood have gone up in smoke and the total loss will run up in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The people of the district especially those living in Accotink, Accotink station and Pohick, were panic stricken yesterday as the flames fanned by a fierce northeastern gale swept the roaring flames near their homes. The smoke, almost suffocating, poured behind in a great pillow lighted by the blazing pieces of bark and pine knots. Women and children were carried from their homes in automobiles to the villages out of the path of the flames while every man and boy in the surrounding country went to work to fight the fire. Trenches were dug and backfiring resorted to but the work was of little avail and it was not until the flames reached large cleared fields that it was checked.

The work of the fire-fighters however saved a number of houses which were threatened.

Employees of the Southern Railway and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway, worked valiantly in helping the people of the burned district.

The fire started yesterday morning in the vicinity of Springfield station on the Southern Railway, ten miles southwest of Alexandria. Spark from a passing Southern Railway locomotive is thought to have set fire to the woods in the heavily timbered tract of 'Ravensworth,' the historic Lee home. The fire burned toward the south and fortunately there was not many houses in its path. The houses that were destroyed were owned by F. P. Gillinham, Mrs. Marion G. Brown, Frederick Davis, William Tyler and Dr. Roberts. The last four are at the Accotink station, of the R. F. and P. Railway, five miles from Springfield. The flames did not reach either the village of Lorton or Accotink although many of the residents fled from their homes. It was impossible to get within a quarter of a mile from the flames on account of the smoke.

At midnight last night the fire was practically under control but during the night it started anew and this morning it was burning in the direction of Pohick village. There are a number of houses at Pohick and the colonial church of Pohick parish is also located there.

Many Alexandrians went to the scene yesterday afternoon and this morning while a large number of women and children from lower Fairfax came here until all danger had been removed.

Harry D. Kirk, of H. Kirk and Sons had an unpleasant experience when he went to the fire yesterday afternoon. He went in his big seven passenger automobile and when below Franconia saw the flames right in his path. He stopped his car and attempted to turn but stripped the gears with the result that he could not move the car. As the flames were rapidly nearing the stalled car Mr. Kirk came to the conclusion that it would be burned and he gathered together all of the loose belongings.

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such as tires, robes, etc. and beat a hasty retreat.

Just at that time Thomas Hunter, in his 5 passenger Dodge car arrived on the scene and seeing the danger which threatened Mr. Kirk's car hastily secured a piece of barbed wire and using it as a tow rope pulled the Kirk car out of danger. Although the stalled car was at the foot of a steep hill he dragged it up the hill and then to Alexandria a distance of nine miles. His car had five passengers and Mr. Kirk's car with 5 passengers weighed over 4,000 pounds.

STRIKE IS AVERTED

W. and O. D. Employees Agree to Submit Issues to Arbitration

While employees of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad were assembled in Koester's Hall, Georgetown yesterday afternoon, ready to declare a second strike, their committee and the officials of the company, in session in the Munsey Building in Washington agreed to submit all questions at issue to arbitration.

The agreement, signed at the last minute, makes another strike impossible for at least a year. The employees claim the agreement is a practical recognition of the union. The only statement made by Colin H. Livingstone, president of the company, was that they had agreed to arbitrate all differences with their employees.

On Saturday, April 8, the men called off their strike pending conferences between a committee representing their organization and the company. The time for these conferences ended yesterday, and it was the understanding among the men that if no agreement had been reached, they would declare a second strike.

The verdict was greeted as a complete victory. Representative C. C. Carlin, of Virginia, who succeeded in bringing the men and their employers together two weeks ago attended yesterday's conference as a mediator.

Following is the full text of the agreement, signed by Mr. Livingstone president of the road, and M. F. Patterson, E. C. Putman, W. H. Foote, and P. F. Carson, representing the employees:

"It is hereby agreed between the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Company, party of the first part, hereinafter called the company, and division No. 699, Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, hereinafter called the association, as follows:

"1. That all grievances arising between the company and the members of the association shall be taken up by the properly accredited officers of the company and the properly accredited officers and committees of the association. The members of the association selected under this provision shall be employees of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad.

"2. That where any differences arise between the company and the association which cannot be mutually adjusted in conference, they shall be submitted to a board of arbitration, to be chosen in the following manner: The company to select one arbitrator, the association to select one, the two thus chosen to select a third. Either party failing to name its arbitrator within seven days from the date that arbitration is asked for shall forfeit their case. The finding of said board of arbitration shall be final and binding on both parties to this agreement.

"3. This agreement to apply to the present as well as to the future differences between the said railway and its employees.

"4. This agreement and the provisions thereof shall be in full force and effect and binding upon both parties for one (1) year from date of signature."

W. B. Emmert, general manager of the company, and M. F. Patterson and O. F. Carson, representing the employees, will go into conference probably today. No time limit has been set on these conferences, but if after a reasonable period no agreement has been reached the arbitrators will be chosen, as provided for in the agreement. The decision of the arbitrators is binding upon both parties for one year. The principal demands the men are a 20 per cent increase pay and a ten hour work day.

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MILITIA READY FOR EARLY CALL

Virginia Can Start 3,500 Men and Officers in 24 Hours

ARE FULLY PREPARED

Fredericksburg Company Transferred to Second Regiment—Lynchburg Has New Company.

Richmond, April 19.—When asked yesterday how long it would require him to have the Virginia State Militia ready for a trip to Mexico, Adjutant General W. W. Sales, stated that he could have the entire State troops, numbering some 3,500 fully officered, and with full equipment, ready to entrain within 24-hours. The condition of the State militia is better now than it has ever been, and practically all the companies could muster 65 men each in case a call is issued.

While full war strength is 146 men and officers, very few of the regular army companies have this many men. There is considerable interest throughout the State at this time regarding the formation of new companies. Practically every city large enough to afford an armory is clamoring to be admitted. The last city to ask for the formation of a new company is Hopewell, and Adjutant General Sales has this proposition under advisement at this time.

There are a large number of young men in Hopewell who have had military experience, either in some of the military schools or in the militia of Virginia or some other State. These young men could fall into ranks with but slight training, and the company thus formed, it is stated, would be one of the best in the country, owing to this former military fitness.

The new Lynchburg company, "The Musketeers," has been assigned to the First Regiment, and the Fredericksburg company has been transferred to the Second Regiment, under the following order issued yesterday from the Adjutant-General's office:

"April 19, 1916
"General Orders No. 5:
"1. The company of infantry at Lynchburg, Va., designated as "The Musketeers," having been inspected for muster into the service of the State of Virginia March 3, 1916, by the assistant inspector-general, Virginia Volunteers, and on the 4th day of April, 1916, by Capt. A. M. Shipp United States infantry inspector-instructor detailed by the War Department, and having been recommended for admission into the State service, it is announced as a regular, organized company of the Virginia Volunteers, subject to all the requirements and entitled to all benefits and privileges of the laws and regulations for the government of Virginia Volunteers.

"2. Company L, First Infantry, at Fredericksburg, Va., is transferred to the Second Infantry, as Company "E" and will be assigned to battalion organization by the commanding officer Second Infantry.

"3. 'The Musketeers' Infantry, Lynchburg, Va., is hereby assigned to the First Infantry as Company "L", and will be assigned to battalion organization by the commanding officer, First Infantry.

"By order of H. C. Stuart, Governor and commander-in-chief.
"W. W. Sales,
"The Adjutant-General."

Quartermaster-Sergeant Herbert N. Morris, of Company D, Fourth Infantry, of Norfolk, has been elected second lieutenant of his company.

Dr. Lester E. Dellinger, formerly second lieutenant of Company A, First Infantry, of Richmond, has been re-elected lieutenant of his company.

AUCTION SALE.

Samuel H. Hunt, auctioneer at noon today in front of the Royal street entrance to the City Hall, sold to Justus Schneider for \$3,500 a lot of ground with improvements on the south side of Queen street, near St. Asaph.

Our delicious deviled crabs at the Rammel Cafe.

LOCAL BREVITIES

The subject at the Holy week services at the Methodist Protestant Church tonight at 8 p. m. will be "Christ at Bethany."

J. D. Knight has been awarded a contract to remodel residence 911 Prince street for J. W. Herndon, into four modern flats. Plans and specifications were made by Jas. A. Clark.

HIGH WINDS IN BALTIMORE.

One Man Killed by Roll of Paper Blown on Him.

Baltimore, April 19.—The second severe windstorm within a week swept Baltimore and nearby counties yesterday; took as its toll one life and fanned into fury small woods fires that before they were subdued swept hundreds of acres of valuable timberland, caused thousands of dollars damage and threatened valuable property. The lives of scores of firefighters were endangered when one of the wood fires gradually worked its way toward a house in which was stored 1,500 pounds of dynamite. This did not ignite, however.

On the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay the storm raged. So high was the wind that the Customs officials were unable to board incoming vessels. Several large ocean liners due yesterday afternoon were unable to make this port because of the wind. They are some where in the Bay. Not a single sailing vessel was able to make Baltimore. All were driven into shelter along the shore. Vessels that were due to clear yesterday are still at their moorings, the masters declaring they would not "buck" the wind. Tugs had difficulty in moving lighters and tugs.

Jerome Schubert, 50 years old, killed by a roll of print paper weighing 1,325 pounds that was started rolling by a gust of wind and fell down an elevator shaft in the Munsey Building.

ROYAL ARCANUM.

Norfolk, April 19.—Howard O. Avery, of Norfolk, was re-elected supreme regent, and W. Floyd Reams, of Richmond, grand regent, last night by the Grand Council, Royal Arcanum. Other officers elected were as follows: John R. Doles, Norfolk, grand vice-regent; W. W. Miller, Richmond, grand orator; A. B. Botts, Fredericksburg, grand treasurer;

Thomas Spratt, Roanoke, grand chaplain; James B. Blanks, Petersburg, grand sergeant; H. A. Allen, Lynchburg, grand warden; R. E. Winfree, Richmond, grand sentry; J. Foster Gray, Eastern Shore, chairman board of trustees; A. D. Jackson, Richmond, elective member of the executive committee; J. O. Aydolette, Eastern Shore committee on laws; Lewis Seal, Richmond, finance committee.

Last night the grand council witnessed the initiation of a large class of candidates for membership in Pocahontas Council. The degree was conferred by Grand Regent Reams, assisted by the degree team of Pocahontas Council. At 10 o'clock the members of Pocahontas Council and representatives of the grand council were entertained at a play.

BRITISH CABINET CRISIS

London, April 19.—That a grave cabinet crisis exists is undeniable, but, according to an authoritative statement last night, no resignations, either ministerial or military have yet been tendered, and it will probably be several days before the crisis is ended.

The Marquis of Crewe, lord president of the council, in a statement to the House of Lords yesterday, which was the first official admission of the gravity and complexity of the problems dividing the ministers, intimated the possibility that Premier Asquith might not be prepared even on Thursday to make his promised statement, in which case the house would sit the following day.

Both sides in this momentous conflict are marshalling all their available forces for the parliamentary struggle over Sir Edward Carson's motion for universal military service. Strong whips are out and all the members of the house of commons serving at the front have been granted leave to remain in London until a division is taken.

WANTED—Houseboat, address giving all details and etc., H. W. Gazette Office.

WEATHER HALTS FIGHT AT VERDUN

Tide of Conflict Sinks to Gun Duel and Inactive Infantry

BOTH MAKE CAPTURES

Germans Take Hill 1616 in Rush That Gained Small Trench Footing on Monday.

Paris, April 19.—French first line trenches in the Verdun region west of the Meuse, from Dead Man's Hill, to Cumières, were bombarded Monday, by the Germans, and the bombardment was continued there and at other points all Monday night and yesterday, but no infantry activity has taken place since repulse of the heavy attack Monday. East of Meuse relative calm prevailed during the night.

The attack between Douaumont and the Meuse was very violent. The German forces included troops from five different divisions. East of the Chaffour salient the Germans penetrated a front line trench, but were partly ejected. This information was contained in French official reports, the earliest of which, given out yesterday afternoon, is as follows:

"On the left bank of the River Meuse there has been a bombardment of our first-line positions between Le Mort Homme and Cumières. On the right bank of the river the night passed in relative quiet.

"It has been confirmed that the German attack delivered yesterday between the Meuse and the Douaumont region took on a character of extreme violence. Further, information is that this offensive action was conducted by troops belonging to five different divisions.

"In the east salient of the Chaffour wood, the enemy penetrated our first-line trench, but from this position he was in part driven out by a counter-attack.

"In the Woëvre district there has been an artillery duel in the sector of Moulinville. South of Ban-de-Sapt, a German reconnaissance which was endeavoring to approach the trenches in the direction of Hermampère, northeast of St. Die, was repulsed with hand grenades.

"During the night of April 17, aeroplanes of the enemy threw down seven bombs, one of them being an incendiary missile, on Belfort. It has been reported that two persons were killed and six wounded. The material damage was not important."

The official communication issued by the War Office last night reads as follows:

"In the Argonne our artillery was active in the region of Four de Paris and against the roads and communications of the enemy.

"In the Verdun region bad weather impeded the operations during the course of the day."

TREBIZOND CAPTURED

Important Black Sea Port in Hands of Russians

Petrograd, April 19.—Trebizond, the most important Turkish city on the Black Sea has been captured by the Russians.

The fall of Trebizond to the Russian arms is announced in an official communication which says:

"Trebizond has been taken. The united energetic efforts of our Caucasian army and Black Sea fleet have been crowned by the conquest of this fortified town, the most important position on the Anatolian coast."

Trebizond is a city of Asia Minor, on the Black Sea, 375 miles east of Constantinople and 100 miles north of Erzerum, the town stormed by the Russians on February 16. Trebizond has a population of about 40,000, including some 18,000 Christians.

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